



European Heart Failure Mission Statement

Heart failure is a common and complex condition that occurs when the heart becomes too weak or stiff to pump enough blood to meet the body's needs. It is the leading cause of preventable hospitalisations in the European Union (EU). It often arises in conjunction with other cardiovascular diseases (CVD) or coexisting conditions, such as a heart attack, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or diabetes.

A key success indicator in meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Developmental Goal 3.4 ('reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and wellbeing'), to which the EU has committed, is a **reduction in heart failure hospitalisations and mortality**.

We call on the European Commission to exercise its full strategic competences in health to address heart failure and reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one third

Prioritise cardiovascular health and heart failure in strategic plans

- 1. Launch a European Cardiovascular Health Plan** that includes goals to reduce CVD-related hospitalisations and to improve prevention and management of heart failure and other high-needs cardiovascular conditions.
- 2. Establish a heart failure hub within a Knowledge Centre on Cardiovascular Health**, to support the implementation of evidence-based policymaking and ensure widespread roll-out of best-practice initiatives.

Direct funding towards research and innovation in heart failure and cardiovascular disease

- 3. Create a heart failure working group within a wider EU Mission on Cardiovascular Health in Horizon Europe**. Like the EU Mission on Cancer, this should mobilise collective power behind research, innovation and exchange of best practice to address heart failure and other high-needs cardiovascular conditions, with a goal to deliver concrete results by 2030.



The Heart Failure Policy Network

- 4. Include a dedicated strand on cardiovascular health in the 2025 EU4Health work programme** that grants funding for real-world implementation of flagship schemes for heart failure at national, regional and local levels, and accelerates the roll-out of best-practice care. This must include shifting to more sustainable models, including specialist-nurse-led care.

Facilitate the exchange of best practice in heart failure

- 5. Create a dedicated European Reference Network (ERN) on heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF)** that facilitates specialist knowledge-sharing among Member States on this complex and highly prevalent type of heart failure, where clinical science and best practices are fast evolving.
- 6. Establish an Initiative on heart failure** to embed best-practice standards across Member States, including quality assurance schemes as well as a training template and certification for heart failure specialist nurses.



The HFPN has developed supporting documents with key calls to action for the EU in important areas of focus for the heart failure community:

- **Call to action on mental health in heart failure**
- **Call to action on specialist nursing for heart failure**
- **European Heart Failure Mission research priorities**

The Heart Failure Policy Network is an independent, multidisciplinary platform made possible with financial support from AstraZeneca and Roche Diagnostics. The content produced by the Network is not biased to any specific treatment or therapy. All outputs are guided and endorsed by the Network's members. All members provide their time for free. The Network is hosted by The Health Policy Partnership (www.healthpolicypartnership.com).